The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 2047 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 27

Samuel Gompers said:

The spiritual effect of industrial freedom is of incalculable potency in determining the moral fiber of the nation.

ICFTU Team Goes to Far East To Enlist Unions Against Reds

Brussels, Belgium.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions dispatched a 5-nation union delegation to the Far East to develop "all practical proposals for fully enlisting the tremendous potential strength of the democratic Asian labor movement in the international struggle for peace, freedom and social justice."

Gordon W. Chapman, secretary-treasurer of the AFL State, County and Municipal Workers, is a member of the team.

The ICFTU said in statement:

"The Far East delegation leaves Brussels at a time when the peace in Asia, and possibly the whole world, is in jeopardy, as a result of the armed communist aggression against South Korea. This is the latest and most flagrant attempt to extend the Soviet sphere by force.

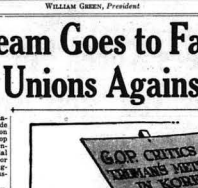
"The situation created by that act of aggression, however, in no way diminishes the importance of the ICFTU mission. Now, more than ever, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions considers it necessary to strengthen democratic unions in Asia; help those unions coordinate their efforts through effective regional organizations within the framework of the Confederation; and formulate plans for speedy and adequate assistance aimed at promoting economic and social programs.

"The ICFTU delegation to Asia consists of Mr. Chapman; John Brophy, CIO; J. W. Dalley, British Trades Union Congress; Roger Dekuyer, Belgian General Confederation of Labor, and Raven Sen, Indian National Trades Union Congress, who will join the group when it reaches India. In addition, Jay Krane of ICFTU headquarters staff and seven Asian union representatives are attached to the mission as secretaries.

"During the next 2 months, the ICFTU delegation intends to visit both eastern and western Pakistan, India, Japan, Formosa, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, Hongkong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaya, Ceylon and Iran.

"There is no desire on the part of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to impose on Asian trade unions the forms and methods of organization alien to their national traditions. All discussions and inquiries will be conducted in closest collaboration with the national movements of the various countries which the delegation will visit.

"In this way, the ICFTU delegation is confident it can further develop all practical measures for fully utilizing the tremendous potential strength of the democratic Asian labor movement in the international struggle for peace, freedom and social justice."



Courtesy The Evening Star, Washington, D. C.

Says Marshall Plan Revived Europe

Paris, France.—"I see tremendous improvement in Europe's economy since my visit a year ago. I am encouraged to do more Marshall Plan aid to Europe."

So said AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany during a radio interview here.

Mr. Meany had just returned from a 3-week tour of Europe, during which he had talked with many European leaders.

He said the outstanding feature of his trip was the increasing evidence of solidarity between the free democratic workers of the United States and Canada.

Chicago Union Wins 7-Year Shop Fight

Chicago.—An AFL union was upheld in its 7-year struggle to establish bargaining rights in a Chicago photo-engraving plant, in spite of the employer's contention that the union lost its majority status after an original employee election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board on October 11, 1943.

The ruling, contained in a decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, ends what is probably the most protracted struggle ever employ bargaining rights in the history of the National Labor Relations Act.

Joseph M. Jacobs, Chicago labor attorney, announced that the court decision affirms and enforces an order issued by the NLRB on April 8, 1949, in which the Superior Engraving Co., at 218 W. Superior St., was ordered to bargain and engage in collective bargaining activities with the Chicago Photo-Engravers Union, AFL.

"The present decision is the latest in a long series of administrative proceedings originally commenced by me in 1943 when the union first attempted to establish bargaining rights for the company's employees.

"The Court of Appeals sustained the findings of the NLRB in ruling that even after the lapse of 7 years the AFL union was entitled to bargaining rights in the plant. The court declared that the postponements and delays of continuous proceedings would not possibly justify the company's refusal to bargain collectively in accordance with congressional policy."

Attorney Jacobs and Louis A. Miller, president of the Photo-Engravers' Union, announced that, pursuant to the court decision, an effort would be made to institute collective bargaining negotiations with the company.

EDITORS TO MEET

New York.—President Matthew Woll and Secretary-Treasurer Lewis M. Herrmann have issued a call for the 39th annual convention of the International Labor Press of America to open at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, and continue through Sept. 17 at the Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas.

All Union Heads Summoned For Labor League Rally

Sailors Dedicate Home on Coast

San Francisco.—The AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific dedicated its new home at First and Harrison Sts. in San Francisco on June 30.

Gov. Earl Warren officially placed the cornerstone and one of the stirring, militant stories of maritime unionism had reached an historic climax.

The formal dedication program featured addresses by the governor; Rep. John F. Shelley, president California State Federation of Labor, and C. J. Haggerty, executive officer of the state AFL; Harry Lundeberg, secretary-treasurer of the Sailors Union, presided.

But the story of the sailors goes back far beyond June 30, 1950. It began 65 years ago when the fathers of the SUP laid the cornerstone for a lumber pile at the foot of Polsom St., just a few short blocks from the impressive granite and marble structures that are now reaching to the skyline of San Francisco.

This new building cost something more than $1,000,000, but in the things that make a union great it cost much more. There are blood and devotion in every square foot of this monument to the men of the merchant marine, the blood and devotion of the men who met at the Folsom St. wharf and vowed they would never desist in their efforts to secure the wages of those who sail the sea—the blood and devotion of all who since 1885 have carried on the struggle of the SUP against every kind of maritime tyranny.

MORE FOR GOOD HUMOR

New York and its 3-weeks strike by 1,000 Good Humor ice cream workers won 18 cents an hour raise. The workers are represented by the AFL Teamsters Union.

IATSE Plans 40th Parley at Detroit

New York.—Approximately 1,100 delegates will attend the 40th convention of the AFL International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, opening in Detroit on Aug. 14.

The International Alliance of the supreme government of the alliance officers appointed for a mid-century reappraisal of its position as organized craftsmen, as members of the house of labor and as citizens of a fighting nation and a very troubled world.

The convention is returning to Detroit for the first time since 1928.

It was in Detroit at the convention of the old National Alliance, the first held in that city, that it voted to quit at Elks Hall on July 13, 1896, representing 29 locals with 2,000 members. In 1928—32 years later, 22 years ago next week (704 delegates) met in June 4 at Detroit's Moose Temple for the 28th convention. Now, in mid-century, IATSE is fast approaching the one thousand mark.

Needed: More Than 60,000,000 Jobs

Washington.—The AFL Executive Council last May called the once "dream" goal of 60,000,000 jobs "well-nigh attained."

The June report on employment by the U. S. Department of Commerce proves it. Even though 1,483,000 persons are still idle, there were 3,384,000 others unemployed, an increase of 327,000 over May.

The labor force of 64,177,000 workers is the biggest on record and industry isn't supplying jobs fast enough.

Washington.—An "important meeting" of AFL Labor's League for Political Education has been called for July 10-19 here.

The telegraphic summons was sent by AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany to the president and secretary of all national and international unions and state federations, and to labor newspaper editors.

The officials of the international and national unions will meet at 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 11, at the Washington Hotel.

The presidents and secretaries of all state federations of labor will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the same hotel.

Editors of labor papers will meet at 2 p.m. the same evening.

The meeting will be a mid-summer rallying of forces to plan strategy and campaign methods for the hard congressional battles of the autumn. An effort will be made to coordinate the membership, financial and publicity resources of the AFL for a successful drive to elect a liberal Congress in November.

The meeting comes just 60 days in advance of the AFL convention to open at Houston on Sept. 18.

AFL Lobbying Work Reported to House

Washington.—The facts about lobbying activities of the American Federation of Labor, and its public record, Labor's League for Political Education.

The league made the comment in connection with testimony that the House Committee on Lobbying Activities, headed by Rep. Frank Buchanan, should seek information on lobbying activities of the executive branch departments.

Anyone who wants to know how much the AFL spends for lobbying can go to the Clerk of the House and ask to see the AFL lobby report," the league said.

"If anyone wants to know where LLPE gets the money that it is spent, he can find out by reading LLPE financial reports, which also are filed with the House.

"The AFL, in fact, considers government bureaus. All their financial records should be open to inspection by the Comptroller General, who works for the Congress. Congress considers us as open as the unions'.

"Finally, consider lobbying done by businessmen. It's common knowledge that businessmen are the principal backers of such groups as the Committee for Constitutional Government and the Constitutional Educational League. Yet their organizations make another lock on their financial records and refuse to tell a thing at all.

"What have they got to hide?"

Urges Cabinet Post For Health Agency

Washington.—Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing urged formation of a Department of Health in his agency as the Department of Health, Education and Security.

The AFL supports his position.

AFL President William Green has appealed to all AFL affiliates to have their local unions and state federations write to their representatives and senators in support of creation of the new department.

Letters, postcards and telegrams should express opposition to H. Res. 527 and Sen. Res. 279, now on the pro comes effective July 30 unless either is disapproved.

Mr. Ewing confirmed Mr. Green's assertion that the American Medical Association and other powerful lobbies of its kind are behind the reorganization plan proposed by President Truman.

In testimony before the Senate Executive Reorganization Committee, Mr. Ewing said:

"It is almost trite now to say that departmental status for these governmental functions of education, Since the Harding and Hoover administrations the trend has overwhelmingly been an executive department in this area of government activity was first made, these programs have grown splendid in size as measured by appropriations and personnel employed, and in importance as measured by their impact on the American people. The trend is continuing.

"In the face of overwhelming arguments for a Department of Health, similar to the federal activities in health, education and welfare, the question may well be asked, why has this not been done long ago?

"The answer is, I believe, once again such efforts have been defeated by professional groups who fear that separate departmental status for the functions of education will prejudice which they are interested. For example, the proposal to create a Department of Health with a doctor of medicine at its head aroused fear in the educators want a separate Department of Education, with an educator as secretary.

"These are the forces that in the 80th Congress opposed the Fulbright-Taft bill, S. 140, which would have established a Department of Health, Education and Security. They are the forces who claim credit for being primarily responsible for the defeat of Reorganization Plan 1 in the first session of this Congress. They are waging the same battle today against Reorganization Plan No. 27."

ICFTU Backs U. S. Action in Korea

Brussels, Belgium.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, speaking for 56,000,000 workers throughout the world, registered a vehement protest against the "flagrant and unprovoked armed attack launched by communist forces in southern Korea."

The ICFTU said in a statement:

"This is clearly the latest move in a systematic plan for enlarging the armed force, if necessary—the totalitarian sphere of influence. For, whatever the merits of any dispute between North and South Korea, we believe now that the existing machinery of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and the amicable settlement of difference was adequate for the purpose, and enjoys the confidence of sincere lovers of peace everywhere.

"In the firm conviction therefore that the steps taken by the U. S. A., Great Britain and other members of the United Nations are designed to restore peace in Korea and to uphold the dignity and authority of the United Nations, we call upon the free unionists of all lands to give these measures their unstinted support."

LAUDS GOMPERS

Camp Tamimend, Pa.—That Samuel Gompers was becoming an increasingly active advocate of labor and social legislation toward the end of his life, and that he would "undoubtedly have been classified as a believer in the welfare state if he had lived through the eventful years in the last quarter of a century," were among the contentions of Dr. Harry W. Laidler, Executive Director of the League for Industrial Democracy, at the Tamiment Institute of Social Science, conducted by the Workers' National Labor Relations Board on October 11, 1949.

The ruling, contained in a decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, ends what is probably the most protracted struggle ever employ bargaining rights in the history of the National Labor Relations Act.

Joseph M. Jacobs, Chicago labor attorney, announced that the court decision affirms and enforces an order issued by the NLRB on April 8, 1949, in which the Superior Engraving Co., at 218 W. Superior St., was ordered to bargain and engage in collective bargaining activities with the Chicago Photo-Engravers Union, AFL.

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"The Court of Appeals sustained the findings of the NLRB in ruling that even after the lapse of 7 years the AFL union was entitled to bargaining rights in the plant. The court declared that the postponements and delays of continuous proceedings would not possibly justify the company's refusal to bargain collectively in accordance with congressional policy."

Attorney Jacobs and Louis A. Miller, president of the Photo-Engravers' Union, announced that, pursuant to the court decision, an effort would be made to institute collective bargaining negotiations with the company.

FRENCH BEGIN TOUR

Washington.—Seventeen leaders of major French labor unions began a 6-week study of American labor unions on June 27.

Through meetings with union and government officials and visits to U. S. plants in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, Akron, Ohio, and Madison, Wis., the group will become acquainted with the role of labor in industry and in the community.

BLASTS BOARD REPORT

Chicago.—President M. G. Schoch of the AFL railroad Yardmasters called denial of the union's demand for a 40-hour week by presidential emergency board "a disgrace and contemptible subterfuge."

HONOR 279 AFL MEN

New York.—A total of 270 members of AFL affiliated unions was among 405 employes of 25 years service with General Outdoor Advertising Co. honored at a series of regional dinners commemorating the company's first quarter-century.

SIGN STOCK EXCHANGE

New York.—The United Financial Employes, Local 205 of the AFL Office Employes International Union, signed a 2-year contract covering 800 workers of the New York Stock Exchange.

Buying Power Keeps Business Good As AFL Unions Press Wage Increases

Washington.—Records for the first half of 1950 bear out what labor has always said:

High level consumer buying means good business.

That is the mid-year conclusion of Labor's Monthly Survey, which noted that the economy was pushing along the close to peak levels. And, it said, the outlook was good for the next few months.

The Survey conclusions were reached and published prior to the outbreak of the Korean war. Here's how the Survey sized up mid-1950 economically:

This year American consumers have bought a larger quantity of goods than ever before in history, and business is heading toward a new peacetime peak.

There are three main reasons for the consumer spending spree: (1) Workers' purchasing power has reached a new postwar peak and since wage and salary income is about two-thirds of all consumer income, high workers' buying power is a basic sustaining factor for business; (2) Veterans insurance payments have added at least $2.5 billion to consumer buying power; (3) Consumers have been borrowing at unprecedented rates to buy homes, autos, appliances, television sets, furniture, etc.; the consumer credit is up $3 billion from last year, and home mortgage financing is up about $4-6 billion.

The housing boom has been created chiefly by huge sales of automobiles which may exceed 7 million cars and trucks this year—an all-time peak; the home building boom, with 850,000 new homes started in the first 5 months this year or 51 percent more than last year; by sales of all the furnishings and household articles needed for new homes or for improving present homes.

Business firms are responding to this consumer-created boom by a more cheerful attitude toward the future. They are buying larger inventories of goods; they have stepped up their plans for installing new plant and equipment, so that the forecast for such purchases in the first 9 months of 1950 is now only 6 percent below 1949 instead of 15 percent as low as at the beginning of the year. This has helped to create jobs for workers so that:

1. Unemployment has declined by force is increasing faster than industry is providing jobs.

2. Profits in the first quarter of about $20,000 or more each month since February, and in May was down to 4.1 million. This figure however is still 1 million higher than the average for 1947 and 1948. The latter 1950 were 3 or 4 percent above 1949, with prospects that "full-year profits will moderately exceed those for 1949 which were the second largest on record." Outlook for different industries is mixed, but very few lines will be below last year.

3. Prices are trending upward again, but the rise thus far is gradual and not alarming. Living costs may be a little higher this fall, but no serious rise is yet forecast.

4. Government deficit spending if increased could have serious inflationary effects. At present the federal government is spending $9.3 billion more per year than in fiscal 1948, when it operated at a surplus. For fiscal 1950 the deficit has been estimated at $5 billion and for 1951 at $10 billion.

5. Wages are increasing though some increases are not as large as in 1948. Weekly wages in factories reached a new all-time high in April. The high level of wages is the sound basis for the demand for boosting the current consumer borrowing slackens.

Outlook is for continued good business at least through the fall months this year. The demand for housing is still strong, provided prices of building materials do not rise seriously.

World effect of our business boom is to stimulate business in foreign countries as our industries purchase more materials. Increased imports this year are helping to narrow the dollar gap and create jobs for workers abroad. — From AFL Labor's Monthly Survey.

Up Pay of 146,000 California Workers

San Francisco.—Collective bargaining negotiations in California during May brought an average increase of 7¢ cents to 146,000 AFL trade unionists.

The largest group affected was the 100,000 southern California basic building trades craftsmen with an across-the-board increase of 8 cents. The average gain for the remaining 46,000 union members was 6¢ cents.

AFL Wins Highest Miner Pay Scale In 30 Days Before Contract Expires

Denver, Colo.—An example of skillful collective bargaining by an AFL union was the 80 cents a day pay increase negotiated and put in effect 30 days ahead of expiration of the old contract by the Climax, Colo., Molybdenum Workers Union 24410.

The wage increase went into effect on July 3 instead of being delayed until July 31, expiration date of the old contract year.

Present rates of pay were increased 80 cents a day across the board to all 400 Climax Molybdenum Co. employes.

The increase is located at Climax, Colo., which claims to be the highest unincorporated town in the U. S.)

The settlement was considered a major victory as it breaks the "pattern" settlements that have been made in recent months, which ran from 5¢ cents-an-hour to 10 cents an hour increase, especially in copper.

The increase gives the AFL will make the daily miners' rate at Climax the highest in the western state, $12.24 per day. The average miners' rate for 41 mine workers at only paid $10.95 with the highest single rate reaching $11.

According to Union President Millard Kenney, Climax, Colo., negotiations can be credited to the cooperation of the officers and members of AFL Local Union 24410 and the company in concluding negotiations 30 days ahead of schedule.

The union negotiating committee attained another "first" last year by negotiating a union shop clause, unusual in the metal mining industry. Committee members were President Kennedy, Hugh Matlock, Eugene Lofquist, Andy Champeau, Robert Gray and AFL Organizer S. Wesley Johnson.